



U.S. Department of Justice

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

MASSACHUSETTS MAN SENTENCED IN NASHUA GUN CASE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Nashua Police Chief Timothy Hefferan, and U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Resident Agent in Charge Clifford Ellston, announced that Christopher Howes, age 25, of Groton, Massachusetts was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in connection with making false statements during the purchase of firearms from federally licensed firearms dealers.

During a hearing before U. S. District Judge Paul J. Barbadoro, Howes was sentenced to 15 months in prison and 3 years probation. He had previously admitted to purchasing several firearms for another party who could not legally purchase them. The weapons were found during the execution of a search of his then Nashua residence on May 14, 2004.

U. S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "Strict enforcement of the gun laws is a priority of the Department of Justice through the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative. It is a responsibility that this office takes seriously and we will make every effort to insure that those who cannot legally possess a firearm will be prevented from doing so."

The successful prosecution of this case resulted from the collaborative efforts of the Nashua, New Hampshire Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert J. Veiga.